

THE MERV OASIS.

[illegible]

And exclamations, and the operation of coming to his hair seemed to please them beyond measure. Gulivver in Lilliput was not subjected to close scrutiny or to more constant examination than this special commission. He was utterly at a loss to understand the tormentors' intention; that England did not lie to the south in the direction of Candahar or what a new paper in the Occident could be.

Before many weeks had passed the Englishman was released from strict captivity and permitted to go about and explore the oasis. The fact that the Russians had not gone on in their career of conquest, but had suspended operations at Askaniad, was ascribed partly to their fear of the English, but mainly to the presence of the distinguished captive in Merv. He improved his situation at an opportune moment by handing to the most influential chiefs certain gifts, with which he had provided himself before leaving Persia. The scene illustrated the characteristic traits of tent-life in the desert.

Among other articles intended for presentation I had a silver casket richly engraved and embellished and set with turquoises and rubies, for which I had paid about twenty-five pounds sterling. I placed within it a small silver bowl, and after sealing it, dispatched it by my servant to the Khan's residence. In the meantime Aman Niaz came in, accompanied by his uncle and several other persons of high rank, with whom I was preparing me for coming events. He had scarcely taken his seat when Kialar Khan again appeared. He was, clearly, highly displeased at the announcement of my departure, and seemed to be so keen to see that he did not care to stay too much in presence of the latter. He simply drew from his pocket the casket which I had sent him, and, after having opened it, he replied, "Khan, as you see, is a jewelled silver casket." "What is it for?" he continued. "To keep as a tribute of my respect," I replied. "What is the value in Persian money, 'O Quialih Bilah!' he

could upon them, had already protected them when they were menaced with attack. They would not understand why, having come voluntarily among them, and risked much to do so, he should wish to leave them and go back to his own country. They saw him an important office, they esteemed him as a man, wives as he would consent to take, they named all the newly born infants after him, and treated him with such delicate consideration that he found it a most difficult matter to negotiate his release. If Mr. O'Donovan had possessed even the faint gleams of humor, he would have been enabled to make the closing chapters of his work very entertaining. As it is, the pages are turned fearfully, and the general effect is that of a thoroughly conscientious but exceedingly tedious recital. The most careless reader cannot fail, however, to be impressed by the dauntless courage and splendid pluck of the man. The ride to Merv was an achievement remarkable for intrepidity, self-sacrifice and consummate tact—the highest characteristics of that most enterprising and industrious class of book-makers, the war correspondents of modern campaigns. The qualities of the man are greater than the qualities of the author, and those who follow the record of his wanderings will be invigorated by the contemplation of his courage, perseverance, self-reliance, industry and power of adapting himself to circumstances, even if they find the recital itself somewhat wearisome.

University Grammar School, 1481 Broadway, near 42d-st. (46th year.) Primary, Commercial and Classical Departments. **M. M. Hobby, W. L. Akin, Principals.**

few more engagements by the day or week; no objection to going out of the city; best references. Address D. M., Tribune Uptown Office, 1,236 Broadway.

23 D-ST., 211 WEST.—Furnished rooms on second floor, with first-class board; references.